Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (currently amended): The therapeutic method according to claim 11, wherein said SLNs have a mean diameter ~~comprised~~ between 50 and 400 nm, and a polydispersion ~~comprised of~~ between 0.06 and 0.30.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The therapeutic method according to claim 11, wherein said SLNs have an average diameter ~~comprised~~ between 100 and 200 nm and a polydispersion ~~comprised of~~ between 0.10 and 0.20.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The therapeutic method according to claim 11, wherein said SLNs have a pharmacologically active substance content ~~comprised of~~ between 0.1 and 7.0%.

Claims 5-6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (previously presented): The therapeutic method according to claim 11, wherein said pharmacologically active substance is selected from the group comprising: amphotericin, miconazole, ganciclovir, saquinavir, acyclovir, famciclovir, vidarabine, idoxuridine, β-interferon, paclitaxel, methotrexate, doxorubicin, angiopoietin 1, diclophenac, indomethacin, ketorolac, piroxicam, flurbiprofen, dexamethasone, triamcinolone, hydrocortisone, fluorometholone, rimexolone, timolol, betaxolol and acetazolamide.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~The therapeutic~~ A method ~~according to claim 11, wherein said SLNs are prepared by a process wherein~~ for preparing a pharmaceutical composition containing solid lipidic nanoparticles containing a pharaceutically active substance suitable for treating ophthalmic diseases comprising the steps of:

a) mixing a molten lipid substance containing a drug or its complex ~~is mixed~~ with a mixture comprising water, a

surfactant, a cosurfactant and optionally a counterion of the drug, pre-warmed to a temperature at least equal to the melting temperature of said lipid substance, thus obtaining a microemulsion having a temperature at least equal to the melting temperature of said lipid substance;

b) dispersing the microemulsion obtained in step a) ~~is dispersed~~ in water or in an aqueous medium cooled to a temperature comprised between 2 and 5°C, thus obtaining a dispersion of solid lipidic nanoparticles incorporating the drug;

c) washing the dispersion obtained in step b) ~~is washed~~ with water or with an aqueous medium by diafiltration with the practically total elimination of the surfactant and the ~~consurfactant~~ cosurfactant;

d) drying the dispersion obtained in step c) ~~is dried~~ by ~~lyophilisation~~ lyophilization or by spray drying or by evaporation, thus obtaining the solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) with the drug incorporated.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The therapeutic method

according to claim 8, wherein the microemulsion obtained in step a) is added to a mixture comprising water, a surfactant, a consurfactant and a lipid warmed to a temperature at least equal to the melting temperature of the lipid and the mixture thus obtained is dispersed in water or in an aqueous medium cooled to a temperature comprised of between 2 and 5°C.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The therapeutic method according to claim 8, wherein at the end of step a) a substance suitable for ~~stabilising~~ stabilizing the SLNs is added selected from the group comprising dipalmitoyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine-PEG, diacyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine-PEG (PEG M. W. 750-2000) and fatty acids pegylated with PEG-methylethers (PEG M.W. 750-2000).

Claim 11 (previously presented): A therapeutic method for the treatment of ophthalmic diseases comprising the intravenous or topical ocular administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising solid lipidic nanoparticles containing a pharmacologically active substance

suitable for the treatment of said ophthalmic diseases.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The therapeutic method according to claim 11, wherein the dosage for intravenous administration is an amount of said composition containing to 0.01-5.0 milligrams of active substance per kilogram of body weight.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The therapeutic method according to claim 11, wherein the dosage for topical ocular administration is an amount of said composition containing to 0.01-5.0 milligrams of active substance for each eye.

Claim 14 (original): A pharmaceutical composition suitable for the treatment of ophthalmic diseases by intravenous or topical ocular administration, consisting essentially of an isotonic aqueous dispersion of solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) having a mean diameter comprised between 50 and 400 nm and polydispersion comprised between 50 and 400 nm and polydispersion comprised between 0.06 and 0.30, a pharmacologically active

substance for the treatment of said diseases being incorporated within said SLNs.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The parmaceutical composition according to claim 14, wherein said aqueous dispersion contains a viscosizing substance.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The composition according to claim 14, wherein said SLNs have a mean diameter ~~comprised~~ between 100 and 200 nm and a polydispersion ~~comprised~~ between 0.10 and 0.20.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The composition according to claim 14, wherein for the intravenous administration, said isotonic aqueous dispersion has a concentration of SLNs ~~comprised of~~ between 10 and 250 mg/ml.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The composition according to claim 14, wherein for the topical ocular administration, said isonic aqueous dispersion has a concentration of SLNs ~~comprised~~ between 1 and 25% w/v and contains from 0.1 to 0.4% of a viscosizing substance.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The composition according to claim 14, wherein said SLNs have a pharmacologically active substance content ~~comprised~~ between 0.1 and 7.0%:

Claim 20 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 14, wherein said pharmacologically active substance is selected from the group comprising: amphotericin, miconazole, ganciclovir, saquinavir, acyclovir, famciclovir, vidarabine, idoxuridine, β-interferon, paclitaxel, methotrexate, doxorubicin, angiopoietin 1, diclophenac, indomethacin, ketorolac, piroxicam, flurbiprofen, dexamethasone, triamcinolone, hydrocortisone, fluorometholone, rimexolone, timolol, betaxolol e acetazolamide.

Claim 21 (previously presented): Compositions according to claim 14, wherein the lipid of said SLNs is selected from the group comprising trilaurine, tricapriloin, tristearine, tripalmitine, capric/caprylic triglycerides, dipalmitine, distearine, glyceryl monostearate, glyceryl palmitostearate, cetylic alcohol, stearylic alcohol, fatty acids having C10-C22 chains, choloesteryl hemisuccinate, cholesteryl butyrate and cholesteryl palmitate.

ELECTION OF INVENTION:

The Patent Examiner has required the selection of one of the following three inventions for further prosecution:

Group I: Claims 2-4, 7 and 11-13, drawn to a method for the treatment of ophthalmic diseases comprising the intravenous or topical ocular administration comprising solid lipidic nanoparticles containing a pharmacologically active substance;

Group II: Claims 14-21, drawn to composition consisting essentially of an isotonic aqueous dispersion of solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) having a mean diameter comprised between 50 and 400 nm and polydispersion comprised between 0.06 and 0.30 with a pharmacologically active substance incorporated within said SLNs; or

Group III: Claims 8-10, drawn to a method of making solid lipidic nanoparticles containing a pharmacologically active substance.

ELECTION OF SPECIES:

The Patent Examiner has also required the election of one of the following species for further prosecution:

Active substances comprising: amphotericin, miconazole, ganciclovir, saquinavir, acyclovir, famciclovir, vidarabine, idoxuridine, beta-interferon, paclitaxel, methotrexate, doxorubicin, angiopoietin I, diclophenac, indomethacin, ketorolac, piroxicam, flurbiprofen, dexamethasone, triamcinolone, hydrocortisone, fluorometholone, rimexolone, timolol, betaxolol and acetazolamide.

Claim 11 is considered generic for Group I and claim 14 considered generic for Group II.

ELECTION:

Applicants respectfully elect, with traverse, Group I, claims 2-4, 7 and 11-13, drawn to a method for the treatment of ophthalmic diseases with triamcinolone selected as the single species of the drug to be administered with elected claims of Group I, claims 2-4, 7 and 11-13 readable thereon, for further prosecution. A copy from the Merck Index for triamcinolone is enclosed setting forth the compound name (drug name and chemical name) with the chemical structure.